

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHORLEY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2019, 6.30 PM
COMMITTEE ROOM 1

AGENDA

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2 MINUTES OF MEETING TUESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2018 OF ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHORLEY COUNCIL COMMITTEE | (Pages 3 - 6) |
| 3 TIMELINE | (Pages 7 - 8) |
| The time-line for the electoral review of Chorley Council is enclosed for information. | |
| 4 DRAFT CHORLEY COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO THE ELECTORAL REVIEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW WARDING ARRANGEMENTS | (Pages 9 - 18) |
| To consider the enclosed report. | |
| 5 ANY OTHER ITEM(S) THAT THE CHAIR DECIDES IS/ARE URGENT | |

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Electronic agendas sent to Members of the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee Councillor Alistair Bradley (Chair), and Councillors Danny Gee, Steve Holgate, Adrian Lowe, Paul Leadbetter, John Walker, Paul Walmsley, Peter Wilson and Alan Whittaker.

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MINUTES OF ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHORLEY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE Tuesday, 13 November 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Peter Wilson (Chair), Councillors Alistair Bradley, Aaron Beaver, John Dalton, Margaret France, John Walker, Paul Walmsley and Alan Whittaker

OFFICERS: Rebecca Huddleston (Director (Policy and Governance)), Chris Moister (Head of Governance and Property Services), Phil Davies (Electoral Services Manager) and Cathryn Filbin (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Danny Gee, Adrian Lowe and Paul Leadbetter

11 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 15 August 2018 of Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee

AGREED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August be approved as a correct record.

12 Timeline

Members of the Committee were informed that the LGBCE has delayed the announcement of its' final decision on the ward boundary arrangements to 26 March 2019 (previously 12 March) due to its workload. All other deadlines remain unchanged.

13 LGBCE - draft recommendations on warding arrangements

The Committee considered a summary report and the LGBCE's draft recommendations for new warding arrangements across the borough, as part of its' electoral review of Chorley Council.

When formulating its' draft recommendations, the LGBCE considered the written representations submitted as part of its' initial public consultation, which ran from 26 June until 3 September 2018. The purpose of the consultation was for interested groups and individuals to put forward their suggestions on how the new ward boundaries should be mapped out.

(Councillors Alistair Bradley and Paul Walmsley entered the room.)

It was reported that the LGBCE's draft recommendations were broadly based on the council's submission. However, in some areas of the borough the LGBCE considered

that the proposals the council put forward did not provide for the best balance between the different aspects of its' (LGBCE's) statutory criteria, and as such alternative boundaries have been identified.

Members of the Committee were informed that the LGBCE was currently carrying out a public consultation on its draft recommendations, the scope for which includes the names of each ward.

During debate, members agreed that the majority of the draft recommendations were acceptable, particularly the proposal to bring Coppull into one ward. However, the suggestion to include the area of Heskin within the Croston and Mawdesley ward was considered unsuitable as there was no obvious community identity between Heskin and the rest of that ward.

Members of the Committee agreed with Councillor Whittaker who argued that historically and practically Heskin aligns itself with the Eccleston area of the borough. However, by including Heskin in the ward of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South would increase the variance for this ward to +13%, while Croston and Mawdesley would have a -19% variance, neither of which would be acceptable to the LGBCE. Simply moving another area of the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward into the Croston and Mawdesley ward to reduce the variance difference would not be acceptable either, as the council would be effectively submitting the same proposal which the LGBCE had previously rejected.

The Committee considered that the only way to overcome the various issues associated with Heskin being placed in a ward containing Eccleston, was to propose altering the boundary of Euxton so that a suitable compromise could be reached. Officers were tasked to review the three wards, and put forward a proposal to the next meeting of the Committee to take place in the New Year.

Members of the Committee were informed that the LGBCE had already granted the council a special extension from the 14 January to 25 January 2019 to respond. This will allow members to debate the authority's response at the next council meeting on 22 January 2019.

AGREED:

1. That the following wards proposed by the LGBCE in its' draft recommendations be accepted:

- Adlington & Anderton
- Buckshaw & Whittle
- Chorley East
- Chorley North
- Chorley North East
- Chorley North West
- Chorley South East
- Chorley South West
- Clayton East, Brindle & Hoghton
- Clayton West & Cuerden
- Coppull

2. That officers be tasked to re-examine the following ward boundaries -

- Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South
- Croston and Mawdesley
- Euxton

with a view to moving the area of Heskin into the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward, whilst maintaining elector equality in all three wards.

3. That the Committee be reconvened in the New Year to consider a response to the LGBCE's consultation including ward names which will be referred to a meeting of full council 22 January 2019, prior to it being submitted to the LGBCE by 25 January 2019.

14 Polling Stations (access/suitability)

Members were informed that once the final recommendations on Chorley's ward boundary arrangements had been approved the authority will be required to undertake a review of its polling places. This review falls in line with the national polling place review which takes place every 5 years.

The review is not expected to commence until May 2019. However, officers sought approval to conduct a preliminary consultation from relevant groups and individuals (including elected members) to gather information on existing polling places/stations and to identify any potential new ones.

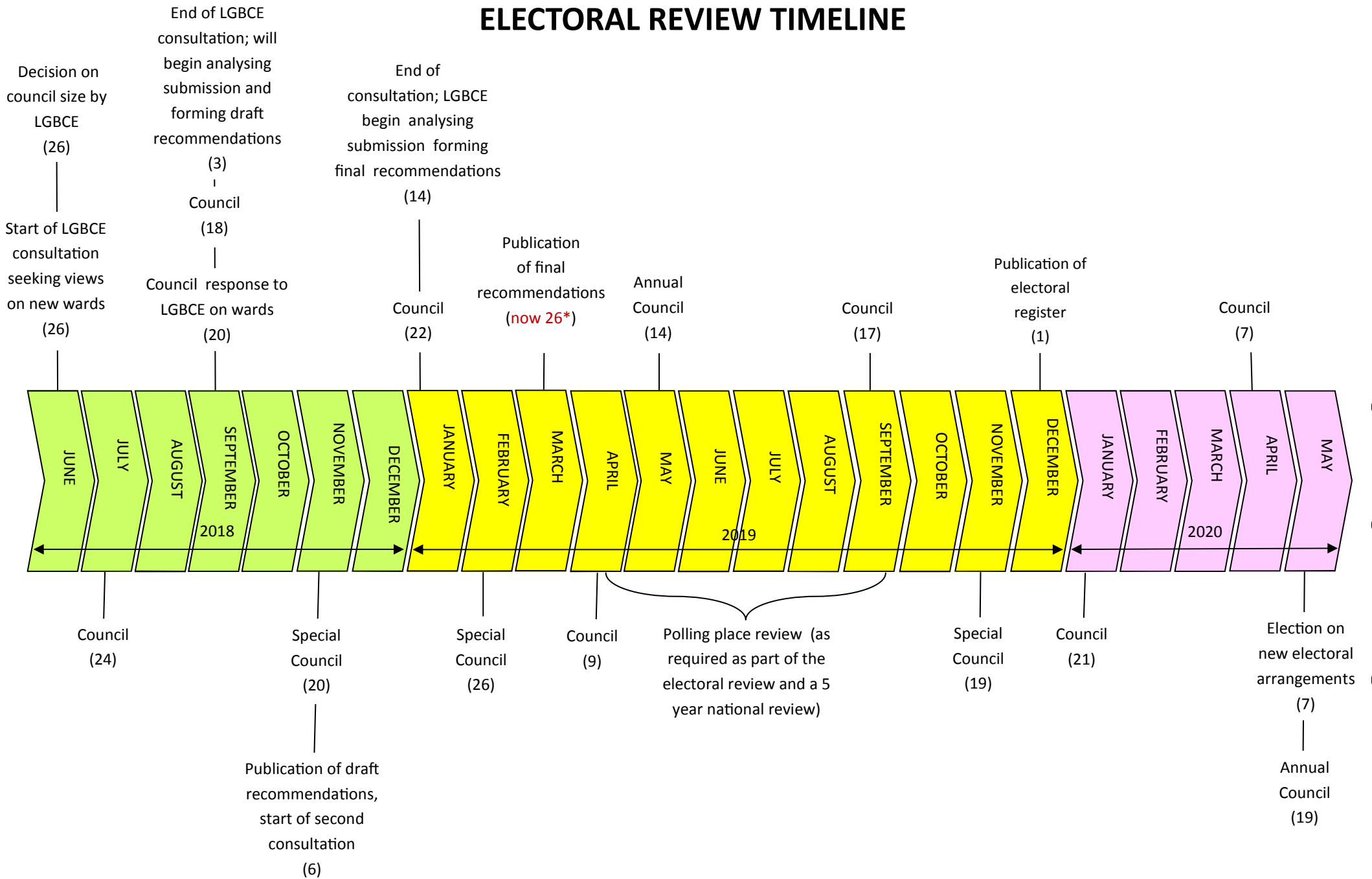
AGREED: That a preliminary review can take place.

Chair

Date

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ELECTORAL REVIEW TIMELINE



* previously 12 March 2019

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee	8 January 2019

RESPONSE TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S (LGBCE) DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider a response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations; including possible alternative warding arrangements for Heskin.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. To formulate a response to the LGBCE on new warding arrangements as part of the electoral review of Chorley Council.
3. To agree the names for each of the 14 wards.
4. That a response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations be prepared for discussion at the next meeting of full council on 22 January 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

5. On 6 November, the LGBCE published its' draft recommendations on new warding arrangements for Chorley. Before the council submits a formal response to the draft recommendations, members of the committee wanted to explore alternative options which would allow the area of Heskin to be included in the same ward as Eccleston due to their strong community identities.
6. Altogether six options are proposed and detailed in this report.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	X

BACKGROUND

8. The electoral review of Chorley Council by the LGBCE is now well over half-way through the two stage process which consists of:
 - Stage one – Decision on the Council Size
 - Stage two – new ward patterning arrangements

9. As part of stage 2 of the review, the LGBCE held a public consultation between the 26 June and 3 September which encouraged participants to identify neighbouring areas of the borough that shared common identities and/or linkages. The aim of the consultation was to identifying 14 new borough wards with an average electorate of 6, 439 per ward.

10. After considering the responses received from the first consultation, the LGBCE published its’ draft recommendations on new warding arrangements on 6 November. Although the warding arrangements have been based largely on the council’s submission, proposals from other consultees have also been incorporated. All 14 wards of the draft recommendations are within the +/- 10% variance tolerance and demonstrated good elector equality for years to come.

11. On 13 November 2018, the Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee met to discuss the LGBCE’s draft recommendations in more detail. The committee considered each of the proposals put forward, and found the following warding arrangements acceptable:
 - Buckshaw and Whittle
 - Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton
 - Clayton West and Cuerden
 - Adlington and Anderton
 - Chorley East
 - Chorley North East
 - Chorley North
 - Chorley North West
 - Chorley South East
 - Chorley South West
 - Coppull
 - Euxton*

**Euxton ward has been identified below for possible change.*

12. The committee did however, disagreed with the proposal that placed the area of Heskin in the Croston and Mawdesley ward as it did not share a common identity. Members of the committee considered that it would be more appropriate for Heskin to be included in the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward due to its’ strong links with Eccleston.

13. Before a response to the LGBCE’s draft recommendations is formed, members of the committee wanted to explore alternative warding arrangements that would allow Heskin to be included in the same ward as Eccleston. In finding a solution, the committee felt it appropriate for the proposed ward of Euxton to also be taken into consideration to see if a suitable compromised could be reached.

14. In addition, the committee was asked to consider the ward names proposed in the LGBCE’s draft recommendations and to recommend alternative if deemed appropriate.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS

15. The LGBCE’s draft recommendations put all three wards well within the +/- 10% variance tolerance it requires and currently stands at:

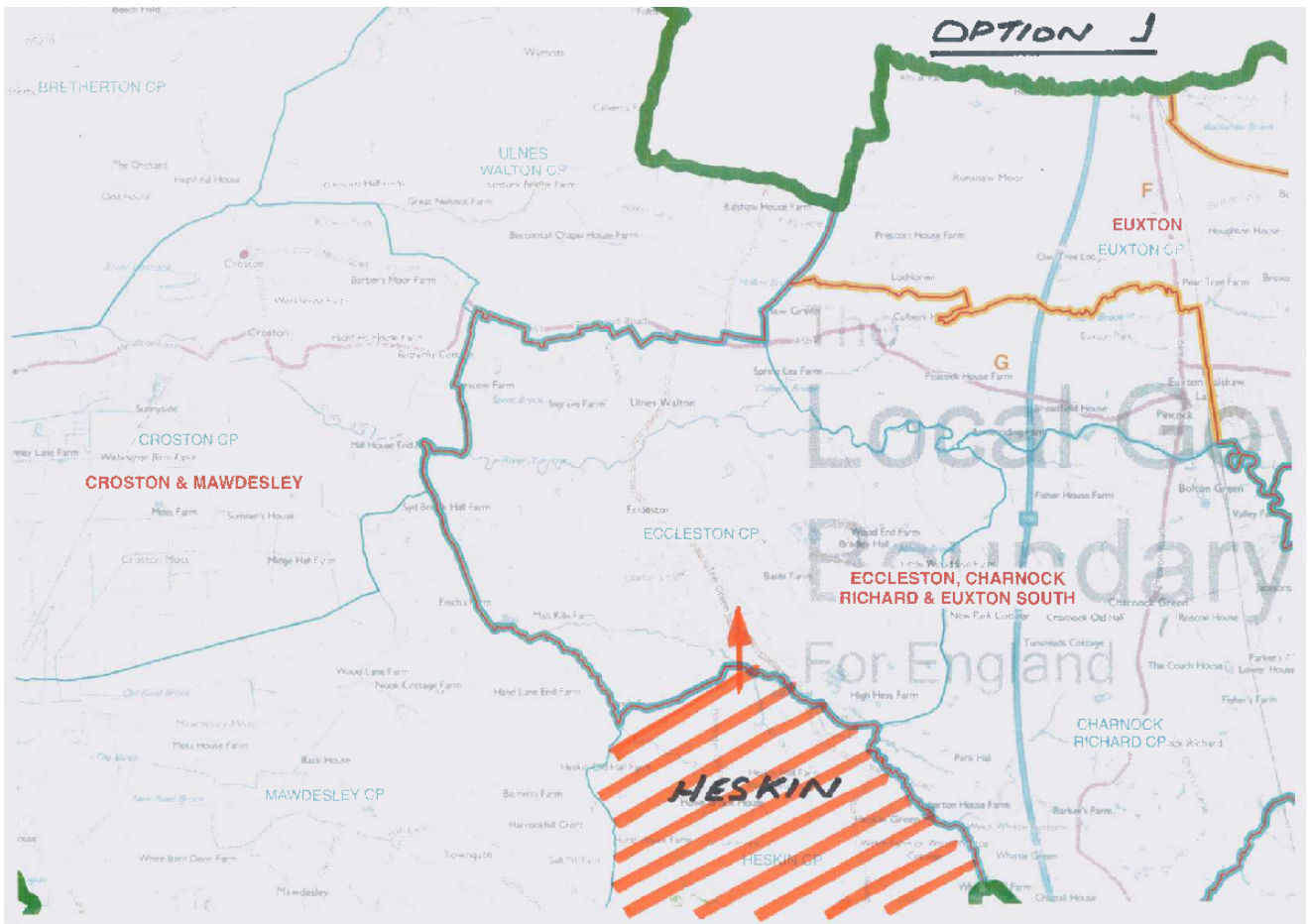
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	6,567	+2
Croston and Mawdesley	5,924	-8
Euxton	6,181	-4

16. All together six options have been identified which take into account alternative natural boundaries to those proposed by the LGBCE. However, all six options have at least one ward that exceeds the +/- 10% tolerance variance to the mean as required by the LGBCE. If the committee chooses to put forward an alternative proposal for Heskin, a strong case would need to be submitted to persuade the LGBCE to deviate from its tolerance requirement.

Option 1:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward.

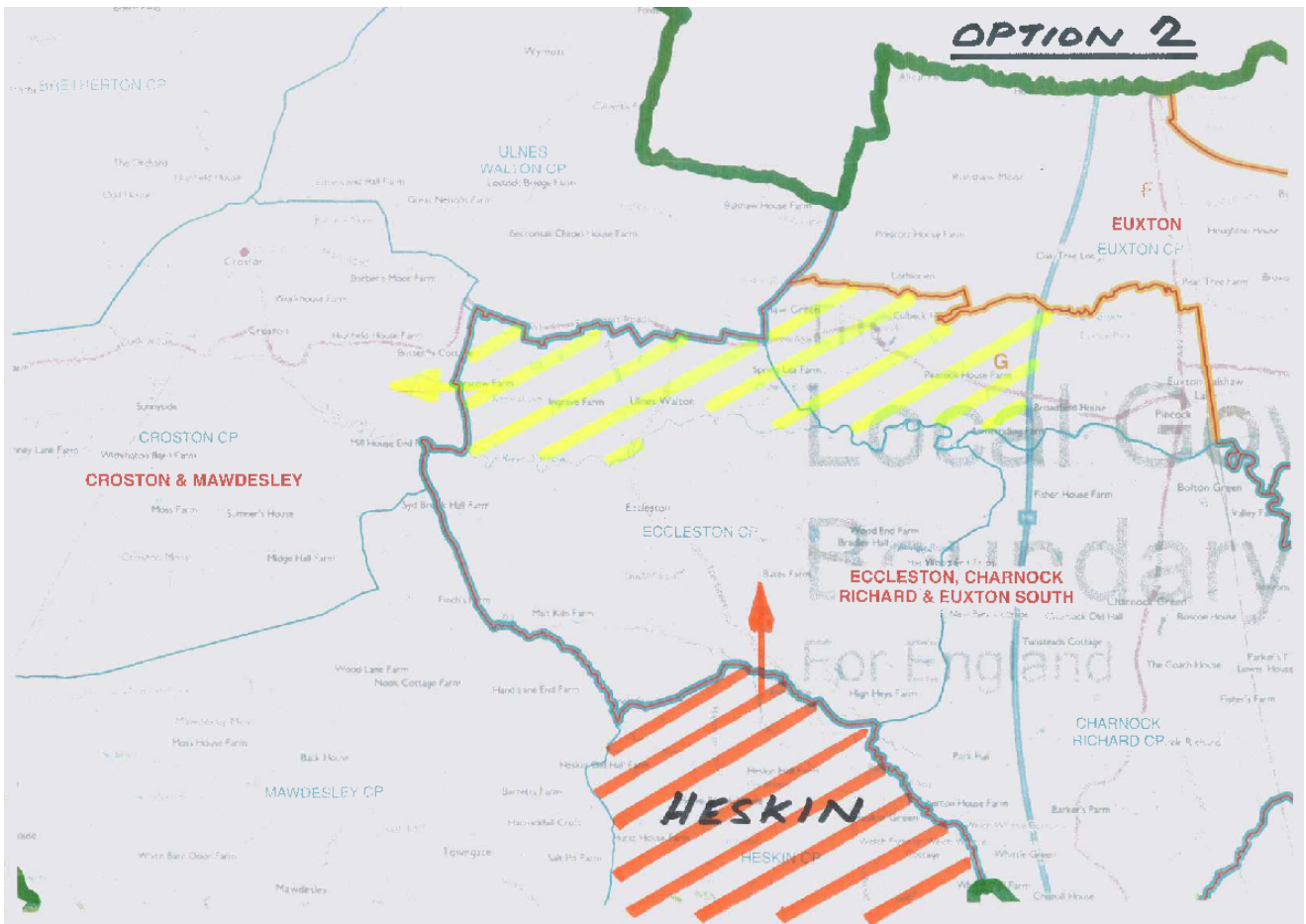
Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,194	-19:34
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	7,297	+13:33



Option 2:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward;
- move part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward (284 electors) into Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton boundary and east of the (Croston and Mawdesley) boundary to the M6).

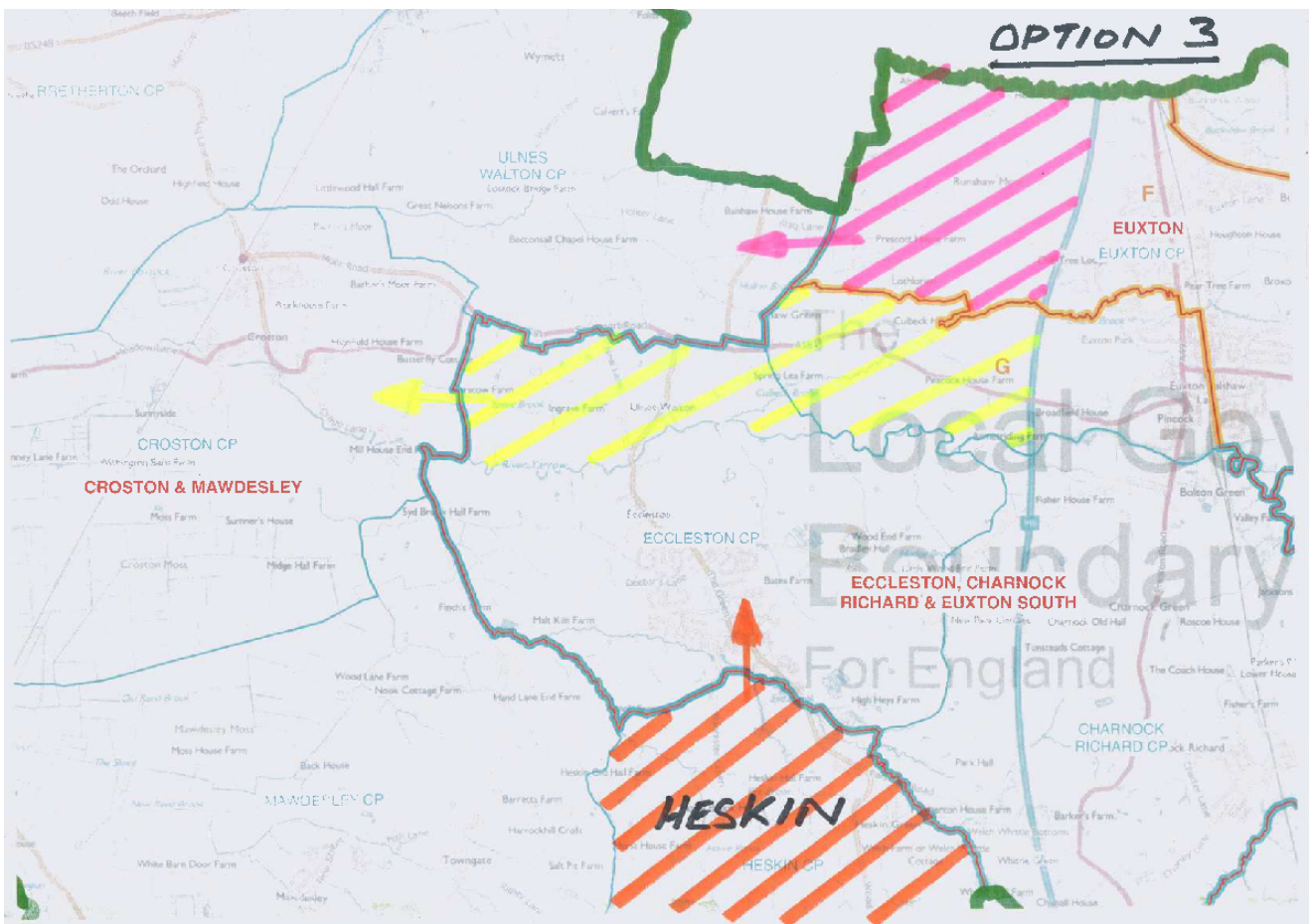
Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,478	-14.92
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	7,013	+8.92



Option 3:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley to the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South ward;
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South (284 electors) into the Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton boundary and east of the Croston and Mawdesley boundary to the M6);
- move a part of Euxton (106 electors) into the Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of the proposed Euxton boundary to the boundary with South Ribble and west of the Croston and Mawdesley boundary to the M6).

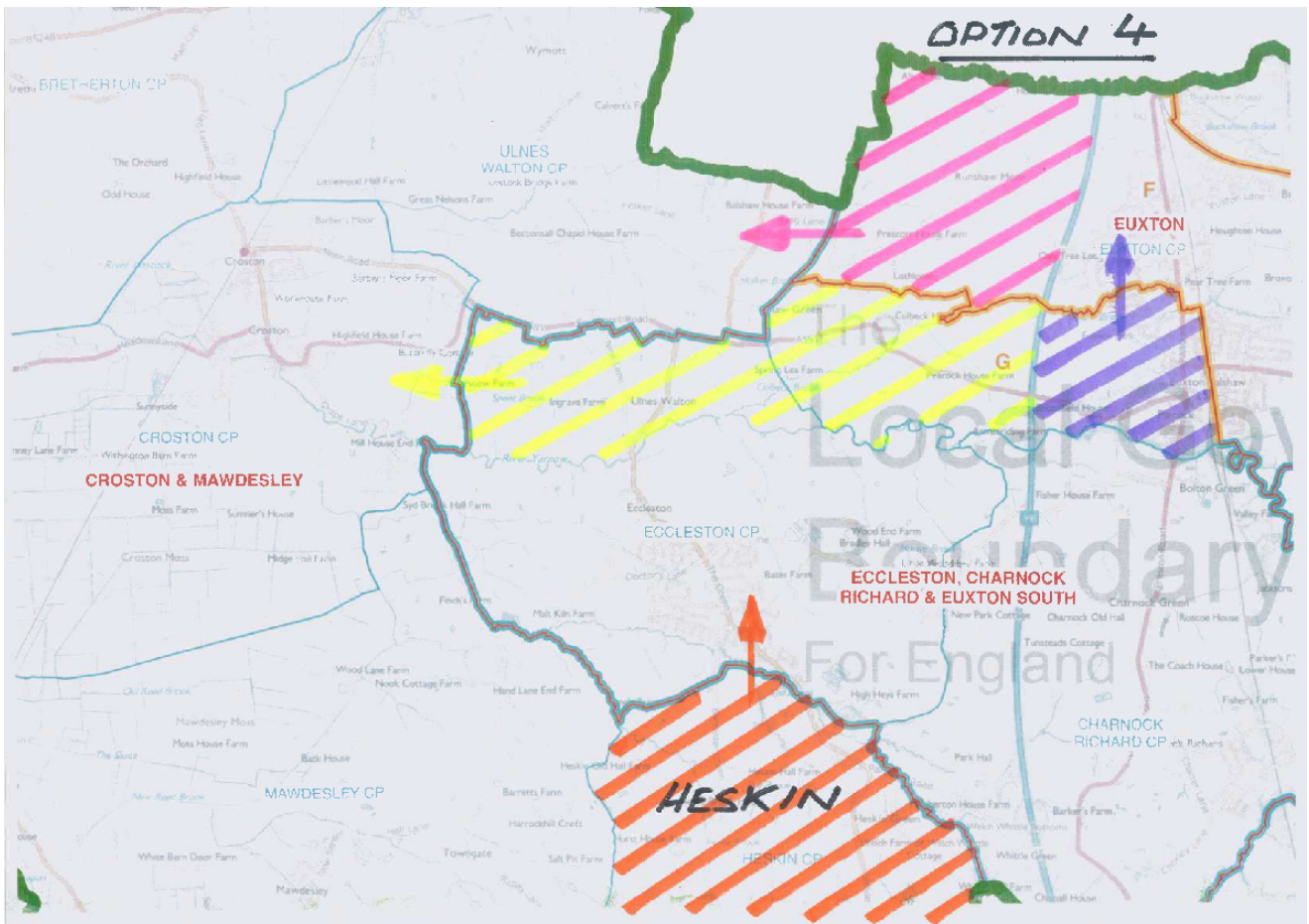
Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,584	-13.28
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	7,013	+8.91
Euxton	6,075	-5.65



Option 4:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward into the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South Ward;
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South (284 electors) into Croston and Mawdesley (North of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton Boundary and east of the Croston and Mawdesley boundary to the M6);
- move a part of Euxton (106 electors) into the Croston and Mawdesley ward (north of proposed Euxton boundary to the boundary with South Ribble and west of the Croston and Mawdesley boundary to the M6);
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South (895 electors) into Euxton north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton boundary and west of the M6 to the railway line.

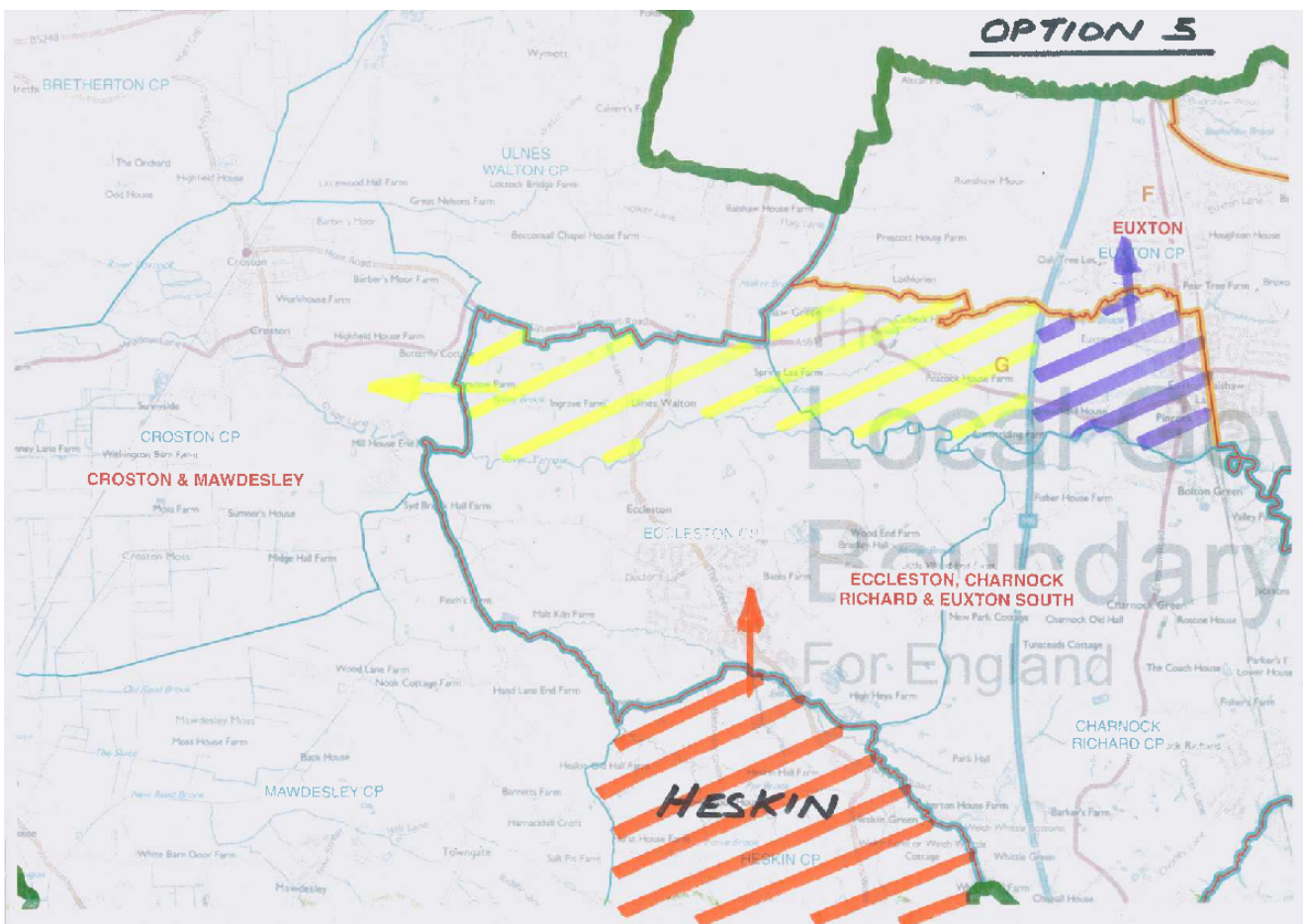
Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,5844	-13:28
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	6,012	-6.63
Euxton	6,970	-8:25



Option 5:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward into the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South Ward;
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South (284 electors) into Croston and Mawdesley (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton Boundary and east of the Croston and Mawdesley boundary to the M6);
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South (895 electors) into Euxton (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton Boundary and West of the M6 to the railway line).

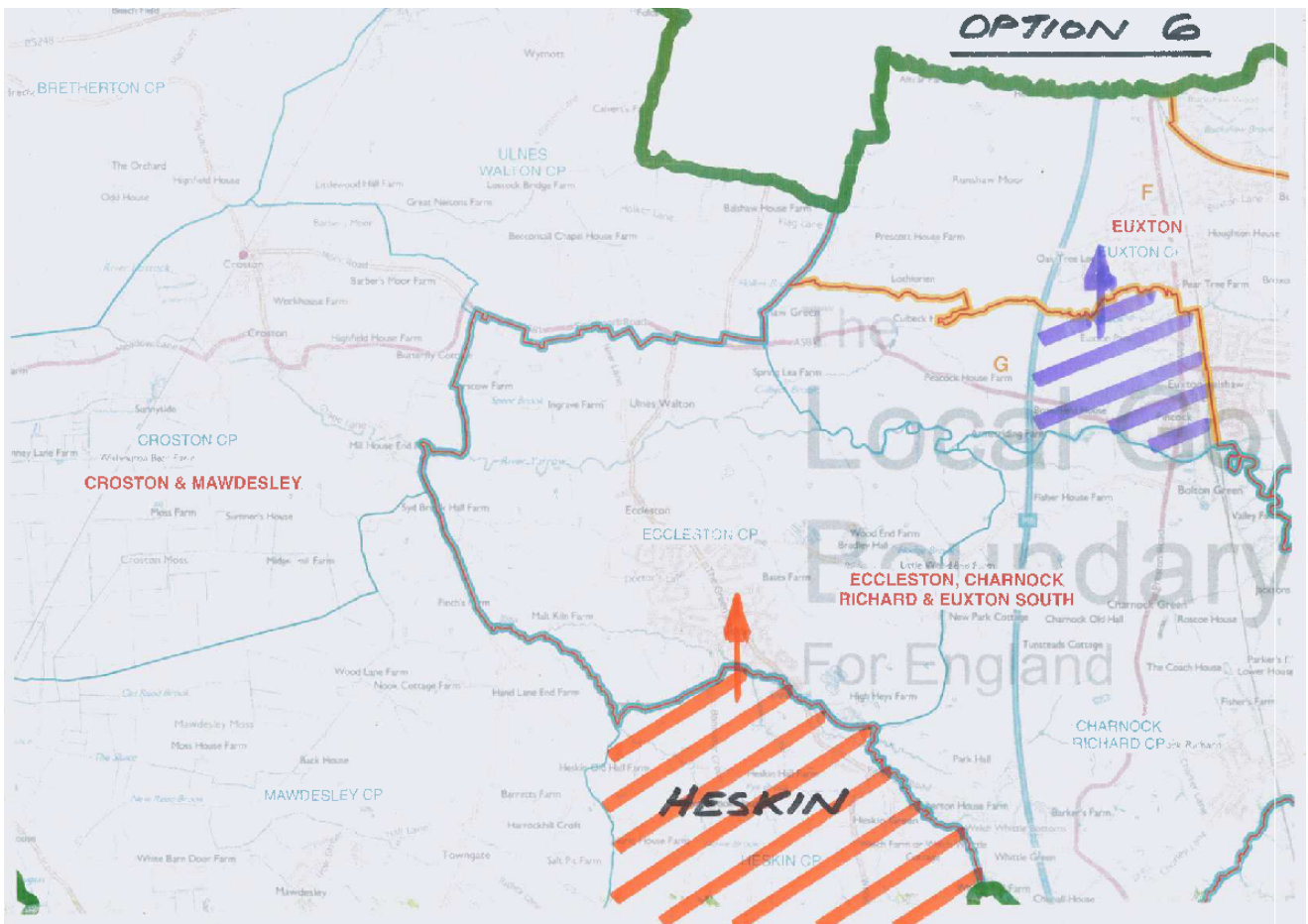
Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,478	-14.92
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	6,121	-4.94
Euxton	7,076	+9.89



Option 6:

- Move Heskin (730 electors) from the Croston and Mawdesley ward into the Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South Ward;
- move a part of Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South(895 electors) into Euxton (north of the River Yarrow to the new Euxton Boundary and west of the M6 to the railway line)

Impact		
Ward	Electorate	% of the mean (6,439)
Croston and Mawdesley	5,194	-19.34
Eccleston, Charnock Richard and Euxton South	6,402	-0.57
Euxton	7,076	+9.89



IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	X	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment	

		required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

18. None of the options listed above fully comply with the LGBCE’s requirement of +/- 10% of the mean.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

19. There are no financial implications of this report or the boundary review at this stage.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

20. The Boundary Commission invited representations on this particular area as it was recognised that the proposed boundary did not necessarily bring linked communities together. The options provided, whilst bringing the population centres of Heskin and Eccleston together do increase imbalances between the number of electors in each ward. This does not in itself prevent the proposals from being adopted although evidence will be required to demonstrate why this is the best proposed solution in order to seek it’s adoption.

REBECCA HUDDLESTON
DIRECTOR OF POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Electoral Review	5 October 2017	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s79211/Electoral%20Review.pdf	Executive Cabinet agenda
Electoral Review Update	23 January 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s82429/Report.pdf	Council agenda
The Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee	27 February 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s83882/Electoral%20Review%20Committee.pdf	Council agenda
Electoral Review of Chorley Council – Draft Council Size submission	10 April 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/s85271/Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20-%20Draft%20Council%20Size%20Submission.pdf	Council agenda
Draft minutes	15 August 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=906&Mid=6896&Ver=4	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting
Electoral Review – Ward Arrangements Proposal	18 September 2018	http://mod/documents/s89709/Electoral%20Review%20-%20Ward%20Arrangements%20Proposal.pdf	Council agenda

Draft minutes	13 November 2018	https://democracy.chorley.gov.uk/documents/g7016/Printed%20minutes%2013th-Nov-2018%2018.45%20Electoral%20Review%20of%20Chorley%20Council%20Committee.pdf?T=1	Electoral Review of Chorley Council Committee meeting
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Report Author	Ext	Date
Phil Davies Cathryn Filbin	5131 5123	19/12/18